

N. H. M.

BRIXWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1918.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting herewith my TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT dealing with the Vital Statistics and the Sanitary Condition of the Brixworth Rural District, comprised of 36 Parishes, having an area of 63,647 acres, an estimated population of *11,559, and 2,987 families or separate occupiers.

* Owing to changes brought about by the War, it is impossible to give a reliable estimate of the population, and these figures, which were supplied by the Registrar-General for the year 1915, are probably as accurate as can be obtained. They have, therefore, been used in calculating the various rates given below for the years 1917 and 1918.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.—During the year 1918, there were 167 births registered in the District, as against 185 for the year 1917, a decrease of 18, or a birth-rate of 14·4 per 1,000 of the population, as against 16·0 for 1917. It is again satisfactory to note that the boys outnumbered the girls, the figures being 93 and 74 respectively.

DEATHS.—The total deaths (excluding 26 deaths of persons not belonging to the District, and including 19 deaths of persons dying outside the District but belonging to it) amounted to 155 as against 163 in 1917, shewing a decrease of 8, and a death-rate of 13·4 per 1,000 of the population, as against 14·1 for the year 1917. Sixty, or 38·7 per cent. of the deaths during the year 1918 were of persons over 65 years of age, 29 being over 70, 18 over 80, and 3 over 90 years of age.

The *Corrected* or *Standardised* Death-rate for 1918 is 11·1, as against 11·7 for 1917. This is the rate which would have been recorded had the sex and age constitution of the population of the district been identical with that of the population of England and Wales as enumerated in 1901. (There were five deaths of Soldiers in the District, viz.: Borough Hospital, Measles, 2; Thornby Auxiliary Hospital, Heart Disease, 1; Church Brampton Auxiliary Hospital, Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 1; Harleston, Killed by Propeller of damaged aeroplane, 1. These deaths are excluded from the Tables).

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The number of deaths under one year was 9 as against 16 for 1917, or a rate per 1,000 births of 53·8, as against 86·4 for the year 1917. (Five of these deaths were due to Premature Birth and Congenital Malformations). This is a satisfactory rate and is due, no doubt, in some measure to the work of the Health Visitors.

PHTHISIS MORTALITY.—Seven deaths occurred from this disease, as against 16 for 1917, or a death-rate of 0·65 per 1,000 of the population, as against 1·38 for the year 1917.

There was also one death from Tuberculous Meningitis.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES MORTALITY (Bronchitis and Pneumonia). Twenty-two deaths were caused by these diseases, giving a death-rate of 1·90 per 1,000 of the population, as against 26 deaths and a rate of 2·24 for the year 1917.

ZYMIC DISEASES MORTALITY (excluding deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis over two years of age). Four deaths occurred, shewing a death-rate of 0·34 per 1,000 of the population, as against the same number and rate for the year 1917. The deaths from these diseases were three from Measles and one from Whooping Cough.

CANCER MORTALITY.—There were six deaths from this disease, or at the rate of 0·51 per 1,000 of the population, as against eight deaths and a rate of 0·69 for the year 1917.

TABLE I.

BRIXWORTH RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1918 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population Estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncor- rected Number	Nett.		Number	Rate.	Of Non- residents registered in the District.	Of Resi- dents not registered in the District.	Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Under 1 Year of Age.	
			Number	Rate.							Number	Rate.
1913	11,833	227	226	19.9	157	13.2	21	11	20	88.4	147	12.4
1914	11,833	244	245	20.7	156	13.1	9	23	17	69.3	170	14.3
1915	11,559	215	217	18.7	185	16.0	37	18	17	78.3	166	14.3
1916	11,559	213	213	18.4	168	14.5	27	11	13	61.0	152	13.1
1917	11,559	185	185	16.0	166	14.3	28	25	16	86.4	163	14.1
1918	11,559	167	167	14.4	162	14.0	26	19	9	53.8	155	13.4

Total population at all ages	11,833	Census 1911
Area of District in Acres	...	...	63,647
Total families or separate occupiers	...	2,987		

TABLE II.

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1918 CLASSIFIED
BY AGE AND CAUSE.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards	
Measles	3	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	a 3
Influenza	35	...	2	1	2	9	17	3	1	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	7	...	...	...	1	...	5	1	...	21 (a 19, b 2)
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer—Malignant Disease ...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	...
Organic Heart Disease ...	14	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	7	3 (b 1, c 2)
Bronchitis	14	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	9	c 1
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	8	3	1	...	2	...	2	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Mal- formation, including Pre- mature Birth	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent deaths, excluding Suicide	4	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	...
Other Defined Diseases ...	49	...	...	...	...	...	1	13	35	7 (a 1, c 6)
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...
 Totals	 155	 9	 5	 3	 8	 11	 27	 32	 60	 35

a "Non-Residents" at Northampton County Borough Hospitals.

b " " at Creaton Sanatorium.

c "Residents" at Workhouse.

TABLE III.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1918.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Premature Birth	2	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	3
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	3
Totals	2	...	1	...	3	3	...	...	3	9

Nett Births in the year	{	legitimate	...	158
	{	illegitimate	...	9

SANITARY REPORT.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Excluding Measles and Tuberculosis, 17 cases were notified as against 36 for 1917.

SCARLET FEVER.

7 cases were notified during the year as against 10 for 1917.

3 of the 7 cases occurred at Church Brampton, all in the same house ; the other 4 cases occurred at Brixworth, Naseby, Little Brington, and Boughton respectively.

All the cases were of a mild type.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANEOUS CROUP.

6 cases were notified during the year as against 17 for 1917.

3 of the 6 cases occurred at Naseby, all in the same house, the other 3 cases occurred at Spratton, Creaton, and Cottesbrooke respectively.

TYPHOID FEVER.

No cases were notified during the year as against 1 for 1917. This is the first year for the past 12 years in which there have not been one or more cases notified in the district.

PHTHISIS AND OTHER TUBERCULOUS DISEASES.

29 cases were notified during the year as against 22 for 1917. A probable predisposing cause of the increase of Tuberculosis is due to want of proper nourishment, which during the war people have had difficulty in getting.

MEASLES.

182 cases were notified during the year as against 226 for 1917. The chief outbreaks occurred at Old, Holcot, Brampton, and East Haddon.

INFLUENZA.

During the months of October and November there was a very extensive epidemic of Influenza in the district, for which the schools were closed in most of the villages for various periods. There were 40 deaths from Influenza and Pneumonia, the bulk of the deaths occurring in people under 40 years of age.

BIRTHS.

147 births were notified during the year ; more ought to have been notified as 167 were registered in the district.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Isolation Hospital has not been opened during the year, thus showing the healthy state of the district as regards Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

From my Report, as regards Infectious Disease, you will notice the marked decrease in Diphtheria, a decrease in Scarlet Fever and Measles. There has been no Typhoid Fever, but there has been a slight increase in Tuberculosis. There has been a decrease in the death-rate

in spite of 40 deaths from Influenza and Pneumonia, a marked decrease in deaths from Tuberculosis, a slight decrease in deaths from Cancer, and a very low Infantile Mortality. On the whole I consider the health of the District has been extremely good.

I have to thank the Sanitary Inspector for his hearty co-operation, and you, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and support.

I am,

Yours obediently,

R. WINTERBOTHAM.